

## Message Text

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42

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJECT: FOOD SUPPLIES IN RIGA

1. SUMMARY. DURING A RECENT TRIP TO RIGA BY EMBOFF, HE OBSERVED GENERALLY ABUNDANT FOOD SUPPLIES. IN VIEW OF CURRENT WASHINGTON INTEREST IN LOCAL FOOD SUPPLIES AND PRICES, WE REPORT THE FOLLOWING BY CABLE. FURTHER DETAILS ON RIGA TRIP WILL BE IN SEPAIRGRAM. END SUMMARY.

2. A DAY TRIP TO RIGA SUGGESTS THAT HEAVY SLAUGHTERING OF CHICKENS IS UNDERWAY AS REVEALED BY GENEROUS SUPPLIES OF GOOD QUALITY CHICKENS OFFERED IN STATE STORES. BEEF AND KOLBASA ARE OFFERED IN GOOD QUALITY AND QUANTITY. PORK CUTS ARE POORER IN QUALITY AND LESS IN QUANTITY. BREAD SUPPLIES WERE ADEQUATE BUT EITHER BLACK OR TAN. WHITE BREAD WAS CARRIED IN QUANTITY FROM MOSCOW TO LATVIA BY TRAVELERS OBSERVED IN THE RIZHSKIY VOKZAL IN MOSCOW.

3. MEAT SUPPLIES IN RIGA -- FIVE STATE STORES IN RIGA WHICH SELL MEAT WERE VISITED BETWEEN 4 AND 6 PM ON JANUARY 6. SUPPLIES OF FRESH CHICKENS OF VERY GOOD QUALITY WERE ABUNDANT, AND LONG LINES OF SHOPPERS

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WERE BUYING MEAT IN EVERY STORE VISITED. SUPPLIES

OF VARIOUS KINDS OF KOLBASA WERE GOOD. SOME CHOICE BEEF WAS ON SALE, BUT LITTLE MUTTON WAS DISPLAYED. SOME FATTY PORT CUTS WERE ON SALE, BUT CHOPPED PORK IN LOAVES WAS AVAILABLE IN ADEQUATE SUPPLIES. PLENTY OF FISH WAS ON SALE, FROZEN, SMOKED, AND CANNED.

4. A SMALL BUTCHER SHOP AT THE CORNER OF UL. LAYPU AND UL. SHKUNYU (LAIPU JELA AND SKUNU JELA) DISPLAYED BEEF STEAKS OF VERY GOOD QUALITY AT 1.90 R. PER KILO: BEEF HAMBURGER AT THE SAME PRICE; SMOKED BACON (UNSLICED) AT 3.50 R.; PORT SHORT RIBS OF VERY GOOD QUALITY AT 1.90 R.; THREE KINDS OF KOLBASA T 1.70 1.90 AND 2.10 R. THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN LINE STAYED AROUND 20 DURING OUR VISIT.

5. A "KULINARIYA" CLOSE TO UL. ADEYU 16 (ADEJU JELA) DISPLAYED SMOKED PORK RIBS AT 2.80 R.; MARINATED PORK AT 2.40 R. AND GOOD QUALITY COOKED CHICKENS.

6. THE MEAT COUNTERS OF THE TSENTRAL'NYY UNIVERSAL'NYY MAGAZIN AT UL. ADEYU 16 OFFERED GOOD QUALITY CHICKENS AT 2.50 R.; FATTY PORK AT 2 R.; SEVERAL VARIETIES OF KOLBASA IN ADEQUATE QUANTITIES AT 1.90, 2.10, 2.40, AND 3.50 R. "SOSISKI" SOLD AT 1.70 R.

7. BUSINESS WAS BRISK AND LINES WERE LONG IN THIS STORE.

8. A STORE ON UL. KR. BARONA WAS SELLING GOOD QUALITY CHICKENS AT 2.80 R.; PORK LOAVES AT 2.00 R.; KOLBASA AT 2.10 R.; COOKED FLATFISH AT 1.07 R. OTHER KINDS OF FISH WERE ON SALE ALSO. THE STOCK OF CHICKENS WAS QUITE LARGE.

9. ANOTHER STORE ON UL. KR. BARONA SOLD COOKED WHOLE CHICKENS AT 3.40 R.; BEEF MEAT LOAF AT 2.56 R.; KOLBASA AT 2.10 R.; AND "BEL'YY VEL'TS" (CHOPPED MEAT IN GELATING) AT 2.00 R. SMALL CONTAINERS OF JELLIED PORK (100 G.) SOLD AT 45 KOPECKS.

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10. VEGETABLE AND BREAD SUPPLIES IN RIGA -- CABBAGES, POTATOES, BEETS, AND A ROOT (SALSIFY?) WERE AVAILABLE IN QUANTITY IN RIGA, BUT CARROTS AND ONIONS WERE NOT OFFERED IN VISITED STORES. BLACK BREAD AND TAN BREAD ARE AVAILABLE IN QUANTITY AS WELL AS OTHER BAKED GOODS. BUT TRAVELERS OBSERVED IN MOSCOW'S RIZHSKIY VOKZAL WERE CARRYING SEVERAL LOAVES APIECE OF THE BEST WHITE BREAD (SARATOVSKIY) BACK TO LATVIA.

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